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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/353,625	07/15/1999	ARNOUD EKKER	1330.1047	3873
21171	7590	10/02/2003	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			NGUYEN, NGA B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3628	

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/353,625

Applicant(s)

EKKER ET AL.

Examiner

Nga B. Nguyen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is the answer to the Amendment filed on July 15, 2003, which paper has been placed of record in the file.
2. Claim 31 is added. Claims 1-31 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments/Amendment

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-31 have been considered but are not persuasive.

Applicant amendments overcome the 35 USC 101 rejections regarding to claims 11-24.

Applicant's arguments regarding to claims 1-28 and 31 are far away from the claimed invention. The claimed invention recite a system comprising: at least one computer having a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created event is due to be created and creating the event when due and a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system. Block meets all the limitations in the claimed invention (see explain below). Moreover, when a user make a telephone call, the user initiate the event the system is the one who creates the event, the user cannot enter the call detail record in the system, the system automatically records the call, thus the system creates the event, not the user. The system continuously creates the event whenever the use makes a telephone call. Similar for

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claims 29 and 30, Griffin also discloses all the limitations disclosed in the claimed invention (see details below).

In conclusion, for the reason stated above, examiner decides to maintain the rejection using Block and Griffin references as discussed in the previous office action (also see below) and makes this action FINAL.

4. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-20, 23-28, and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Block et al (hereinafter Block), U.S. Patent No. 6,377,938.

Regarding to claim 1, Block discloses a system comprising: at least one computer having:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created event is due to be created (column 6, lines 37-40, Tariff Memory 76, system initiated and created flat rate charge, taxes, etc...); and

a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created events an non-system-created events as they become available to the system (column 7, lines 55-column 8, lines 6, processor 60 performs real time billing calculation for system-created events e.g., flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees, etc..., and non-system-created events:, e.g., call charges).

Regarding to claim 2, Block further discloses all events are priced as they become available to the system (column 7, lines 55-column 8, lines 6).

Regarding to claim 3, Block further discloses all system-created events are created at any time based on a flexible schedule independent of a billing process (column 8, lines 1-3, flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees).

Regarding to claim 4, Block further discloses system initiated and created events for a customer may be created one of less frequently than the customer is billed, as frequently as the customer is billed and more frequently than the customer is billed (column 8, lines 1-3, flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees are initiated and created as frequently as the customer is billed).

Regarding to claim 5, Block further discloses summary events are created and maintain in real-time as events are priced (column 9, lines 15-32).

Regarding to claim 6, Block further discloses all events are available for contribution to summary records for discounting and consolidation (column 7, lines 43-50).

Regarding to claim 7, Block further discloses charges for all events that are relevant to a billing period are calculated and available in the system at the earliest practical time (column 9, lines 27-32).

Regarding to claim 8, Block further discloses processing for calculating charges to be billed in a current billing period is outside the billing process (column 7, lines 55-63).

Regarding to claim 9, Block further discloses charges for all unbilled events are ready for the billing process and ready for display on-demand (column 9, lines 15-32).

Regarding to claim 10, Block further discloses pricing process performs real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in the system which impact the charge has changed (column 7, lines 43-50).

Regarding to claim 11, Block discloses a computer implemented process, comprising:

determining, by a computer, whether a system initiated and created event is priceable (column 6, lines 37-40, Tariff Memory 76, system initiated and created flat rate charge, taxes, etc...); and

pricing, by the computer, the event responsive to the determining (column 7, lines 55-column 8, lines 6, processor 60 performs real time billing calculation for system-created events e.g., flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees, etc..., and non-system-created events:, e.g., call charges).

Regarding to claim 12, Block further discloses priceable events are price immediately (column 7, lines 55-63).

Regarding to claim 13, Block further discloses all charge events are price in real-time (column 6, lines 23-25).

Regarding to claim 14, Block discloses a computer implemented process, comprising:

determining, by a computer whether an event is priceable (column 7, lines 55-63); and

pricing, by a computer, the event responsive to the determining, wherein all available system initiated and created charge events for a current billing period are priced at a first opportunity after a prior billing period ends (column 15-32).

Regarding to claim 15, Block further discloses a usage event is price at a time that the usage occurs (column 7, lines 55-63).

Regarding to claim 16, Block further discloses a recurring charge is calculated after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge (column 8, lines 1-3).

Regarding to claim 17, Block further discloses a minimum or a maximum charge is calculated and captured in a summary after and end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge (column 7, lines 5-15).

Regarding to claim 18, Block further discloses charges for summary events are calculated on-demand at a time of charge display (column 9, lines 15-32).

Regarding to claim 19, Block discloses a a computer implemented process, comprising:

determining, by a computer, whether a system initiated and created event is due to be created (column 6, lines 37-40, Tariff Memory 76, system initiated and created flat rate charge, taxes, etc...); and

creating, by the computer, the event responsive to the determining (column 8, lines 1-3, flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees).

Regarding to claim 20, Block further discloses system initiated and created events are created independent of other processes (column 8, lines 1-3, flat charges or monthly equipment rental fees are created independent of the process of calculating a call charge).

Regarding to claim 23, Block further discloses a recurring event is created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge (column 8, lines 1-3, flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees).

Regarding to claim 24, Block further discloses minimum and maximum charge summary events are created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge (column 7, lines 5-15).

Regarding to claim 25, Block discloses a system, comprising: a computer having: a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created event has become current (column 6, lines 37-40, Tariff Memory 76, system initiated and created flat rate charge, taxes, etc...); and

a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-recreated events and on-system-created event as the become available to the system, and creating and maintaining summary events in real-time as events are priced (column 7, lines 55-column 8, lines 6, processor 60 performs real time billing calculation for system-created events e.g., flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees, etc..., and non-system-created events:, e.g., call charges).

Regarding to claim 26, Block discloses a system, comprising: a computer having: a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system initiated and created event is due to be created and creating system-created events at

any time base on a flexible schedule (column 6, lines 37-40, Tariff Memory 76, system initiated and created flat rate charge, taxes, etc...); and

a continuously running pricing process, independent of a billing process, pricing of the system-created and non-system-created events as ready for the billing process and for display as they become available to the system with all events priced as they become available to the system and creating summary events as events are being priced and performing real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in the system which impacts charge has changed (column 7, lines 55-column 8, lines 6, processor 60 performs real time billing calculation for system-created events e.g., flat charges, monthly equipment rental fees, etc..., and non-system-created events:, e.g., call charges; column 9, lines 15-32, creating the bill based on demand of the subscriber; column 7, lines 43-50, recalculation a charge based on the discounts).

Regarding to claim 27, Block discloses an apparatus, comprising:

a source of system initiate and created events (column 6, lines 27-45, The network Routing Device 30); and

a processor pricing the events when the events are priceable (column 6, lines 2-26, Processor 60).

Claim 28 is written in computer medium that parallel the limitations found in claim 1 discussed above, therefore is rejected by the same rationale.

Claim 31 contains the same limitations found in claim 1 discussed above, moreover, Block further discloses: an intermittently running billing process running responsive bill cycles and customer on demand billing information requests and producing a bill using the prices events (column 5, lines 32-65).

7. Claims 29 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Griffin U.S. Patent No. 5,893,077.

Regarding to claim 29, Griffin discloses a system providing pricing information for on-demand billing for events, comprising:

a message queue receiving events including system initiated and created events and usage events (column 17, lines 37-41 and figures 8A, item 350, 8B, item 351); and

a processor performing a pricing process where events are continuously delivered to the pricing process via the message queue and priced (column 6, lines 42-65, the billing server 108 performs a pricing process by gather events from the event collector 102 which is gather the events from the message queue).

Regarding to claim 30, Griffin discloses a continuous pricing process for an event-driven system, comprising:

storing events in a message queue, the events being system initiated and created events, usage events, one time events, and summary events (column 17, lines 37-41; figures 8A, item 350, 8B, item 351 and column 13, lines 44-60);

delivering the events in the message queue to a pricing process (column 6, lines 42-65, the events in the message queue are delivered to the event collector 102, and then to the billing server 108 for pricing); and

pricing the events (column 13, line 60-column 14, line 21).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Block et al (hereinafter Block), U.S. Patent No. 6,377,938 in view of Jagadish et al (hereinafter Jagadish), U.S. Patent No. 6,058,170.

Regarding to claims 21, 22, Block does not disclose system initiated and created events are created according to a schedule in the system and the schedule is created and maintained by the system based on subscription information available in the system. However, Jagadish discloses system initiated and created events are created according to a schedule in the system and the schedule is created and maintained by the system based on subscription information available in the system (column 4, lines 10-20). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the feature above with Block's for the purpose of initiating and creating events based on the schedule in the system.

Conclusion

10. Claims **1-31** are rejected.

11. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to examiner Nga B. Nguyen, whose telephone number is (703) 306-2901. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:30 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough, can be reached on (703) 308-0505.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

12. **Any response to this action should be mail to:**

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

c/o Technology Center 3600

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9326, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

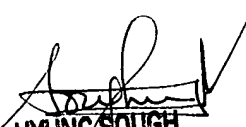
(703) 308-3961 (for informal or draft communications, please

label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Seventh Floor (Receptionist).

Nga B. Nguyen
September 30, 2003


HYUNG SOUH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600